

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 8 and 9.**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.
6. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
7. An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 1.

**Please add the following new claim:**

10. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.
11. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.
12. A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.
13. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.
14. A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.
15. A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.
16. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.